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Jekelius (*Jekelius*) *wrzecionkoi* sp. nov. a new species from Murcia, Spain, compared to two similar species (Coleoptera: Geotrupidae)

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Murcia;
Spain.

Abstract. – A new species of the genus *Jekelius* López-Colón, 1989, *Jekelius* (*Jekelius*) *wrzecionkoi* **sp**. **nov**. from the province of Murcia, near Cañada de la Cruz, Spain, is described and illustrated. The new species is compared to two similar and obviously closely related species *Jekelius (Jekelius) hernandezi* (López-Colón, 1988), and *Jekelius* (*Jekelius*) *klichai* Kylies, Pucholt, López-Colón & Bahillo de la Puebla, 2025. Differential diagnoses of *J.* (*J.*) *hernandezi* and *J.* (*J.*) *klichai* with differences from the new species are presented. Shapes of male mandibles are newly used as an important diagnostic character in *Jekelius*. Illustrations in colour photographs of the habitus and characters of the three species are given. Results of DNA analyses of the new species and J. (J.) *hernandezi* are also presented.

Bubeník B., 2026. – *Jekelius* (*Jekelius*) *wrzecionkoi* **sp**. **nov**. a new species from Murcia, Spain, compared to two similar species (Coleoptera: Geotrupidae). *Faunitaxys*, 14(24) : 1 – 16.

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Introduction

The genus *Jekelius* López-Colón, 1989 (previously a subgenus of the genus *Thorectes* Mulsant, 1842), comprises 29 species, including the new species described here as *Jekelius* (*Jekelius*) *wrzecionkoi* **sp**. **nov**. Species of this genus occur in the Mediterranean region, with one species occurring as far as Asia Minor (see the list of species of the genus *Jekelius* by Kylies et al. (2025) and here).
The nominotypical subgenus *Jekelius* comprises 17 Iberian-Balearic species (Kylies et al., 2025) and the new species described here. The taxa occurring in the Balearic Islands were published by López-Colón (1984) (under the genus group name *Thorectes*). For the taxonomy see López-Colón (1995) and López-Colón et al. (1997). The valid designation of the type species for the genus *Thorectes* was clarified by López-Colón & Alonso-Zarazaga (2006). A phylogenetic and biogeographical study of Mediterranean species was published by Palmer & Cambefort (1997).
Species of the genus are entirely local, depending on the presence of cattle, rodent and other animal excrements; adults are flightless. Distribution in Sardinia was published by Carpaneto et. al. (2011) and from the region of Levant by Sommer (2022) and Sommer et al. (2025).
In March 2025, members of the International Entomological Association – Nature Conservation conducted a survey of insect biodiversity in the Murcia region of Spain, within a 50 km radius of the town of Cañada de la Cruz, whereupon a distinct species of the genus *Jekelius* was discovered. A detailed study of characters of the three species, including shape of mandibles, confirmed that *J.* (*J.*) *wrzecionkoi* **sp**. **nov**. is obviously closely related to *J.* (*J.*) *s*) *hernandezi* and *J.* (*J.*) *klichai* Kylies, Pucholt, López-Colón & Bahillo de la Puebla, 2025. Consequently, differential diagnoses of *J.* (*J.*) *hernandezi* and *J.* (*J.*) *klichai* with differences from the new species are presented.

Material and methods

Body length is measured from the top of labrum to the elytral apex.
The morphological terminology is partly taken from López-Colón (1988), Sommer et al. (2025) and particularly adopted from Nichols (1989).
Colour photographs of the habitus and diagnostic characters were taken by Vladimír Štrunc with a Nikon D850 digital camera with a 90 mm macro lens using Adobe Photoshop and Helicon Focus software. Photographs of aedeagi were taken with a Nikon D850 camera, a Mitutoyo 10× lens with Rainox accessory lenses. The photographs by Ladislav Mencl were taken using a Meopta laboratory microscope and CMOS 5 digital camera with the Helicon Focus 3.20.2 Pro software (for the figures from the two authors see "Acknowledgements" below).
Methods of genetic analysis: DNA isolation, PCR, gel electrophoresis, Sanger sequencing (see Fig. 70-71).
Labels citation: lines on the same label are separated by a slash /, separate labels are indicated by a double-slash //. The colour of the labels and mode of writing is treated in square brackets.

Acronyms for the collections

AWHS – Antonín Wrzecionko, private collection, Horní Suchá, Silesia, Czech Republic;
BBFM – Boris Bubeník, private collection, Frýdek-Místek, Silesia, Czech Republic;
DKCP – David Král collection, Prague, Czech Republic;
LMCT – Ladislav Mencl collection, Týnec nad Labem, Czech Republic;
NMPC – National Museum of the Czech Republic, Prague, Czech Republic.

Reviewer :
Michael Dierkens (*France*) - https://orcid.org/0009-0003-3142-6143 - https://zoobank.org/EB0DE162-6610-4397-B785-0440D4FF4863

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Taxonomy

***Jekelius* (*Jekelius*) *wrzecionkoi* sp. nov.**

(Fig. 1-10, 16, 23-25, 32-34, 39, 42, 45, 48, 51, 54, 57, 64-66, 70-73)

ZooBank : https://zoobank.org/71744645-BA00-4D0A-A00F-F7E555F74CC3

Holotype, ♂, labelled: "14.3.2025 / España-R.Murcia - 1600 m / Cañada de la Cruz-env. / leg. Bubeník and Wrzecionko" [printed] // "HOLOTYPE / Jekelius wrzecionkoi sp. nov. / det. B. Bubeník 2025" [red label, printed].

Paratypes, **15** ♂, **38** ♀, with same locality label as in holotype. All paratypes labelled: "Paratype / Jekelius wrzecionkoi sp. nov. / det. B. Bubeník 2025". [red label, printed]. 54 type specimens in total.

Type locality. – Spain, Murcia region, vicinity of Cañada de la Cruz.

Type depository. – Holotype in BBFM; 25 paratypes in BBFM, 26 paratypes in AWHS and one pair of paratypes in NMPC.

Description of the male holotype

General morphology and coloration. – Body length 16 mm. The entire body is boat-shaped, black with a bluish sheen, convex, with glossier pronotum and matt elytra.

Head. (Fig. 2). – Normally shaped, whole dorsal surface of vertex and clypeus is covered with vermicular-rugulose to scabriculous-subreticulate sculpture. Some difference from the two species treated here appears on the ventral side, in the depth and shape of a groove running beneath mentum on either side of gula onto genae (Fig. 16).

Labrum (Fig. 39). – Transverse, lateral margins rounded, widest at base; anterior margin rather distinctly emarginated and coarsely irregularly bumpy (passing from deep foveae on labral surface); whole surface is irregularly covered with deep foveae, edges of their intervals coarse and elevated; long, blackish setae arising from foveae on lateral and anterior area and margin; foveae on basal area smaller and lacking long black setae; whole anterior margin and ventral labral area densely covered with clusters of rusty-yellow setae.

Mandibles, dorsal view (Fig. 32). – Mandibles with three teeth, subsymmetrical, lateral margins arcuate with row of short black-brown or rusty setae. Left mandible with indistinct very small (rudimentary) lateral-subapical blunt tooth, long, elongate and acuminate apical tooth, and bilobed inner tooth (two teeth merging together). Right mandible with well-developed small, acute lateral-subapical tooth, long, robust, obtusely acuminate apical tooth, and bilobed inner tooth which is narrower than in the left mandible; dorsal surface of mandibles shallowly concave, covered with irregular granulate-punctate sculpture.

Scutellum (Fig. 51). – Right angled triangular, lateral margins moderately rounded at base, then indistinctly emarginated towards narrowly rounded apex; surface very finely irregularly coriaceous-wrinkled.

Pronotum (Fig. 23-25). – Shorter than wide, yet not distinctly transverse; outer margins at base arcuate, then conically attenuated towards lateral corners which are rounded and slightly but noticeably protruding; anterior pronotal margin between the corners is shallowly emarginated; the pronotal corner in its lateral aspect clearly elevated (Fig. 24) and in its detailed dorsal aspects (Fig. 25) appears rounded; pronotal surface very finely punctate-rugulose, consisting of partly irregularly anastomosing punctures, forming irregular microsculpture (Fig. 24-25); median groove entirely absent.

Elytra (Fig. 1, 6). – Normally shaped, humeri blunt-angled (appearing rounded in lateral view, Fig. 6), outer margins with narrow edge, arcuate-narrowed towards blunt-angled apex (the margin appearing sinuate-curved in lateral view as in Fig. 6); elytral surface rather densely covered with extremely fine lines of micropunctures, which are better visible in lateral aspect (Fig. 6).

Mesosternum (Fig. 10, 54). – Quadratic in shape, densely punctate-rugulose within delineated central area; mesosternal process acute-triangular, its acuminated apex reaching level of mesofemora.

Abdomen (Fig. 9). – Abdominal ventrites black with faint blue tinge, surface matt, densely covered with setigerous micropunctures with rusty hair-like setae.

Legs. – Metacoxae (Fig, 10, 57) black with bluish lustre, elongate, attenuated towards very narrow yet blunt apex. Metatrochanters (Fig. 10, 57) conically attenuated in acute angle towards subacute apex. Metafemora (Fig. 57) normally shaped, surface beneath thin row of setigerous punctures running along whole anterior margin smooth and shiny, except for finely coriaceous-asperate basal third which is separated by thin row of short setae running below femoral middle from base towards apex; due to usual variability the femora are without significant differences from the other two species treated here.

Dorsal view of right male protibia. – There are seven teeth on the outer side (Fig. 3, 42); the ventral outline of the large terminal bilobed tooth is directed outwards and upwards in angle of 50 degrees, forming a large gap which separates this terminal tooth from second tooth; the remaining teeth are without such gaps; the second tooth is large and subacute, its ventral outline is also directed upwards, but its dorsal margin is rounded; there is a long, sharp carina on the surface of the second tooth, running from its apex towards the inner side; third tooth is much smaller and blunter, the remaining teeth becoming gradually smaller and subacute towards base, the seventh tooth is only indicated and barely visible. Surfaces of the teeth are almost smooth. Under the largest apical tooth, along the inner side (above the base of sharp central carina of the second tooth) there is a row of six rather deep, irregularly ovaliform foveae, which are separated from another row of about 13 more elongate-irregular foveae, running along the inner side towards base.

Lateral view of right male protibia. – The diagnostic characters are particularly the tooth and denticles on ventral protibial side (left side in the photographs). The apical half of ventral side (Fig. 5, 48) appears irregularly sinuate-like, consisting of three irregular keels above small acute denticle placed above distinct, acute-angled, 1 mm long tooth; on the protibial basal half (beneath the 1 mm long tooth and distant from it), there are six small acute or blunt denticles placed along the basal area of the ventral side (only three of them clearly visible in Fig. 48); the denticles may appear only indicated or entirely missing (as in Fig. 5), depending on the angle of positioning of the protibia in lateral view; there are five setigerous foveae above the 1 mm long denticle, yet they are better obvious in sublateral view (Fig. 4).

Ventral view of left male protibia. – As Fig. 45 figures ventral side of left protibia, the teeth appear directed outwards as in the dorsal view of right protibia; the third tooth is stiffened by a short carina (Fig. 45). Therefore, only the surface of the protibia in ventral view is diagnostic and described here. On the ventral surface of the terminal and second teeth, there is a longitudinal row of setigerous foveae which are indefinitely shaped in the new species (Fig. 45), each bearing a short seta.

Aedeagus (penis) of the holotype is 3.9 mm long. All its aspects – dorsal, lateral and ventral – are visible in the photographs (Fig. 64-66). The aedeagi of the other two species treated here for comparison, as well as of most other species of *Jekelius*, do not show significant differences, because some differences in parameres mentioned by Kylies et al. (2025) might have been within usual variability. Moreover, the shape may differ after copulation, although it deserves further study.

General habitus of males and females. – The surface colour is predominantly black, with a bluish tinge in some specimens.

Differences between males and females of *J.* (*Jekelius*) *wrzecionkoi* **sp. nov**. – Unless genitals are extracted, the sex can only be determined by examining the protibiae, on which the male has one smaller tooth on the inner sides and a large one on the outer sides of the protibia. The female has a large tooth only on the outer side of the protibia.

Etymology. – The new species is named in honour of Antonín Wrzecionko from Horní Suchá in Silesia, Czech Republic, one of the collectors of the new species.

Distribution. – *Jekelius* (*Jekelius*) *wrzecionkoi* **sp. nov**. is currently only known from the type locality in the province of Murcia, in the Cañada de la Cruz area of Spain.

Compared species. – The following two similar species occurring in Spain proved to be closely related yet differing in a complex of characters.

Fig. **1**-**6**. *Jekelius wrzecionkoi* **sp**. **nov**., ♂, holotype.

1. Habitus, dorsal view. **2**. Head. **3**-**5**. Right protibia. **3**. Dorsal view. **4**. Ventrolateral view. **5**. Lateral view. **6**. Habitus, lateral view.

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Fig. **7-10**. *Jekelius wrzecionkoi* **sp**. **nov**.

7-8. ♀, paratype. **7**. Habitus, dorsal view. **8**. Head. **9-10**. ♂, holotype. **9**. Abdomen. **10**. Detail of ventral body area with mesosternum and metacoxae with trochanteurs.

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Fig. **11-15**. *Jekelius hernandezi,* ♂, Spain, Murcia (DKCP).

11. Habitus, dorsal view. **12**. Head. **13**. Detail of ventral body area with mesosternum. **14**. Detail of ventral body area with coxae and trochanters. **15**. Abdomen.

Jekelius* (*Jekelius*) *hernandezi (López-Colón, 1988)

(Fig. 11-15, 17, 20-22, 29-31, 38, 41, 44, 47, 50, 53, 56, 61-63)

Thorectes intermedius hernandezi López-Colón, 1988: 115.
Jekelius (*Jekelius*) *hernandezi*: López-Colón (1996: 375).

Type locality. – Sierra de Espuña National Park, Pozo de las Nieves, 18 km south-west of Murcia, Spain.

Differential diagnosis. – *Jekelius* (*Jekelius*) *hernandezi* is distinguished from *J.* (*J.*) *wrzecionkoi* **sp**. **nov**. by the following diagnostic characters.
One of the most significant differences is in the shape of mandibles (which never were described in detail in *Jekelius*), particularly in shape of teeth; the most significant difference is in the shape of the dorsal aspect of right mandible of *J.* (*J.*) *hernandezi* (Fig. 29-31), which has its anterolateral tooth much larger than in *J.* (*J.*) *wrzecionkoi* **sp**. **nov**. (described above and in Fig. 32-34) and *J.* (*J.*) *klichai* (Fig. 35-37).
Other dorsal characters of the head of *J.* (*J.*) *hernandezi* do not show significant differences from *J.* (*J.*) *wrzecionkoi* **sp**. **nov**., yet some differences are obvious in ventral head aspect, particularly in shape and depth of a groove running beneath mentum on either side of gula onto genae (compare Fig. 16 with Fig. 17).
The pronotum in *J.* (*J.*) *hernandezi* is noticeably shorter (more transverse), its outer margins more arcuate towards less prominent anterior corners; the anterior pronotal margin is almost flat (Fig. 20) and the pronotal surface consists of more regular micropunctation (Fig. 21-22). In contrast, the pronotum in *J.* (*J.*) *wrzecionkoi* **sp**. **nov**. is notably higher (Fig. 23), its outer margins more notably attenuated towards anterior margin which is shallowly emarginated between slightly, yet noticeably elevated anterolateral corners and its pronotal surface microsculpture is more irregular, consisting of partly anastomosing punctures (Fig. 24, 25).
The scutellum in *J.* (*J.*) *hernandezi* (Fig. 50) appears more elongate and almost smooth, in contrast to the shorter scutellum with finely rugulose surface in *J.* (*J.*) *wrzecionkoi* **sp**. **nov**. (Fig. 51) and even more coarsely rugulose surface in *J.* (*J.*) *klichai* (Fig. 52).
Right male protibia in its dorsal aspect in *J.* (*J.*) *hernandezi*, *J.* (*J.*) *wrzecionkoi* **sp**. **nov**. and *J.* (*J.*) *klichai* possesses similar shape of outer teeth (the differences in shape of the teeth in dorsal view given by Kylies et al (2025) proved to be not reliable due to usual variability). Some differences are, however, on the dorsal protibial surface: the surfaces on teeth, including the large surface beneath the apex of the terminal tooth, are rather coarsely punctate-rugulose in J *J.* (*J.*) *hernandezi* (Fig. 41), while the surfaces on teeth in *J.* (*J.*) *wrzecionkoi* **sp**. **nov**. are almost smooth (Fig. 42); moreover, between the apical bilobed tooth and the second tooth in *J.* (*J.*) *hernandezi*, there are four setigerous elongate foveae, and one additional circular fovea above them, all clearly circumscribed by sharp edges and each of them bearing one rusty seta; in contrast, the setigerous foveae in *J.* (*J.*) *wrzecionkoi* **sp**. **nov**. are of an indefinite shape and almost merging together (Fig. 42).
Significant differences are in the right male protibia in its lateral view: in contrast to the number and shape of the denticles on the ventral side (described in the holotype of *J.* (*J.*) *wrzecionkoi* **sp**. **nov**. and illustrated in Fig. 48), the denticles on the basal ventral area (spaced from the median tooth) are notably larger in *J.* (*J.*) *hernandezi* (Fig. 47). The shape of the ventro-apical portion also notably differs: while the area above the median tooth appears irregularly sinuate-like, consisting of three irregular keels (as described in the holotype of *J.* (*J.*) *wrzecionkoi* **sp**. **nov**. and obvious in Fig. 48), the ventro-apical portion possesses five denticles, which sometimes indefinitely merge into keels (Fig. 47).
The differences between protibia in ventral view are in the shape of the setigerous foveae which are deep, almost regularly circular in *J.* (*J.*) *hernandezi* (Fig. 44), while mostly of an indefinite shape in *J.* (*J.*) *wrzecionkoi* **sp**. **nov**. (Fig. 45).
Also the shape and surface of the mesosternum differs: in contrast to the mesosternum described in the holotype of *J.* (*J.*) *wrzecionkoi* **sp**. **nov**. above, and obvious in Fig. 54, the mesosternum in *J.* (*J.*) *hernandezi* appears more elongate and usually sculptured on the whole area (Fig. 53).

Distribution. – *Jekelius* (*J.*) *hernandezi* is a rare species in collections, yet known from a number of localities in Spain. Sierra de Espuña National Park, Pozo de las Nieves, 18 km south-west of Murcia (type locality). Region Alicante: Cabo de Santa Pola 5 m; Xixona 570 m; Busot 700 m;Torrevieja 20 m; Benidorm 10 m. Region Almería: Pozo de los Frailes 75 m; Cabo de Gata 15 m.

Specimens of *Jekelius* (*J.*) *hernandezi* examined for comparison – **2** ♂, **1** ♀ – "Spain, Murcia, N-Zarzadilla de Totana-1000 m, Sánchez coll.", located 18 km aerially from the type locality (DKCP).

Jekelius* (*Jekelius*) *klichai Kylies, Pucholt, López-Colón & Bahillo de la Puebla, 2025

(Fig. 18-19, 26-28, 35-37, 40, 43, 46, 49, 52, 55, 58-60, 67-69)

Jekelius (*Jekelius*) *klichai* Kylies, Pucholt, López-Colón & Bahillo de la Puebla, 2025: 109.

Type locality. – Santiago de la Espada environs, Andalucia, Spain.

Differential diagnosis. – *Jekelius* (*Jekelius*) *klichai* is clearly distinguished from the two similar species treated here.
The mandibles in *J.* (*Jekelius*) *klichai* (Fig. 35-37) clearly differ from those in *J.* (*Jekelius*) *wrzecionkoi* **sp**. **nov**. in shape of the teeth (Fig. 32-34), as well as from the mandibles in *J.* (*Jekelius*) *hernandezi* (Fig. 29-31).
The pronotum in *J.* (*J.*) *klichai* is notably more transverse than in *J.* (*J.*) *wrzecionkoi* **sp**. **nov**. and possesses more or less developed median groove (Fig. 19-20), which was emphasized as diagnostic also by Kylies et al (2025), while the groove is entirely absent in *J.* (*J.*) *wrzecionkoi* **sp**. **nov**. (Fig. 23) and in *J.* (*J.*) *hernandezi* (Fig. 20). Some slight differences are also in the shape of the pronotal lateral anterior corners (compare Fig. 24 for *J.* (*J.*) *wrzecionkoi* **sp**. **nov**. with Fig. 27 for *J.* (*Jekelius*) *klichai*).
The scutellum in *J.* (*J.*) *klichai* (Fig. 52) appears more rugulose than in the new species and even more distinctly rugulose than the almost smooth scutellum in *J.* (*J.*) *hernandezi* (Fig. 50).
Surface of male protibia in its dorsal view appears considerably different in examined specimens: while the surface on the teeth in *J.* (*J.*) *wrzecionkoi* **sp**. **nov**. is almost smooth and shiny (Fig. 42), it appears finely irregularly punctate-wrinkled in *J.* (*J.*) *klichai* (Fig. 43); furthermore, the rows of setigerous foveae placed above the carina of the second tooth of male protibia in *J.* (*J.*) *wrzecionkoi* **sp**. **nov**. consist of five indefinitely ovaliform foveae (described in the holotype above and visible in Fig. 42), there are six well-circumscribed and mostly elongate foveae in *J.* (*J.*) *klichai*.
The right male protibia differs particularly in its lateral aspect: in contrast to the lateral view of the male protibia of *J.* (*J.*) *wrzecionkoi* **sp**. **nov**. (as described in the holotype above and obvious in Fig. 5 and 48), the teeth or denticles on the ventral protibial side in *J.* (*J.*) *klichai* differ in their number, size and spaces from those in *J.* (*J.*) *hernandezi* (Fig. 47).
In contrast to the mesosternum in *J.* (*Jekelius*) *wrzecionkoi* **sp**. **nov**. (described in the holotype above and obvious in Fig. 54), the mesosternum in *J.* (*Jekelius*) *klichai* differs in shape and particularly in its surface which is coarsely punctate-rugose throughout, including the surface of the mesosternal process (Fig. 55).

Distribution. – *Jekelius (Jekelius) klichai* is known from two localities in Spain: Santiago de la Espada environs (Type locality) and 10 km north of Puebla de Don Fadrique, Granada (Kylies et al. 2025).

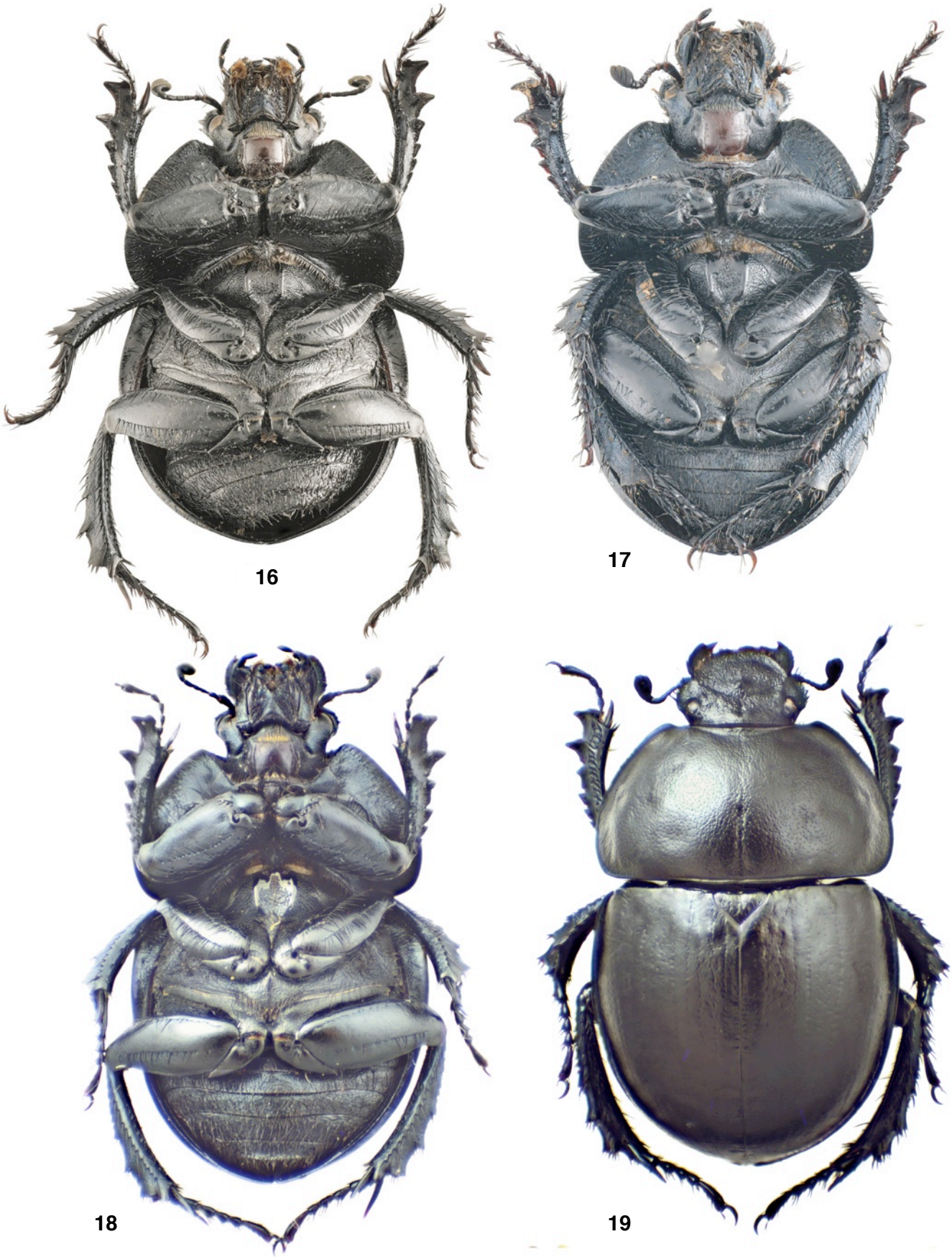

Fig. **16**-**19**. Three species of *Jekelius*.

16. *J. wrzecionkoi* **sp**. **nov**., ♂, holotype, habitus, ventral view. **17**. *J. hernandezi*, ♂, habitus, ventral view (DKCP). **18**-**19**. *J. klichai*, ♂, paratype Spain, Santiago de la Espada (LMCT). **18**. Habitus, ventral view. **19**. Habitus, dorsal view.

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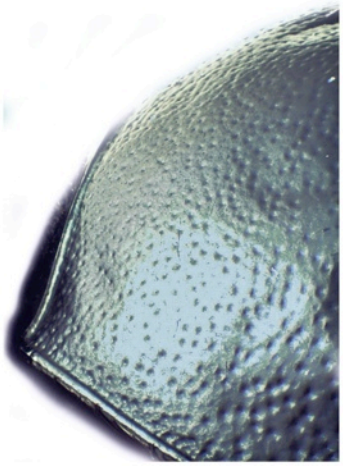

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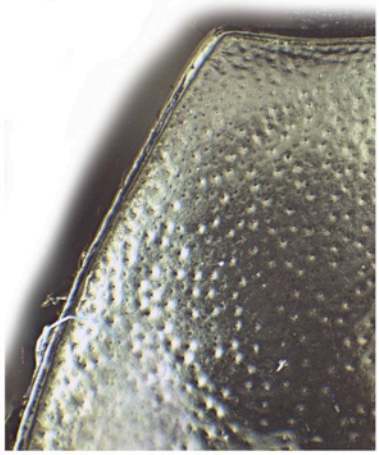

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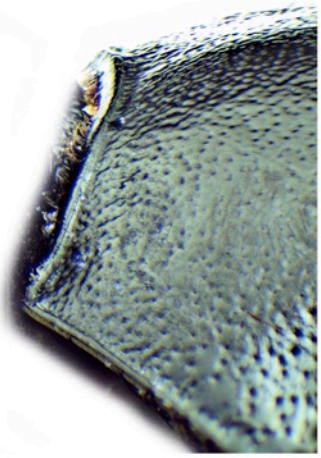

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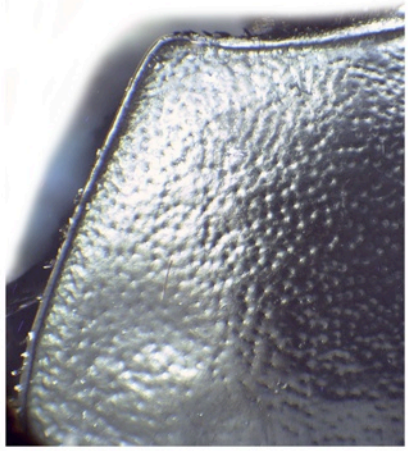

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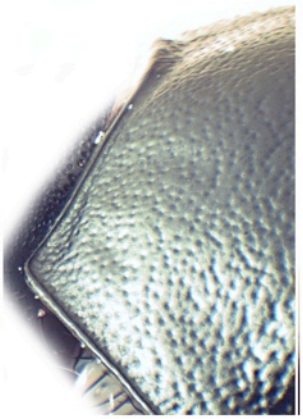
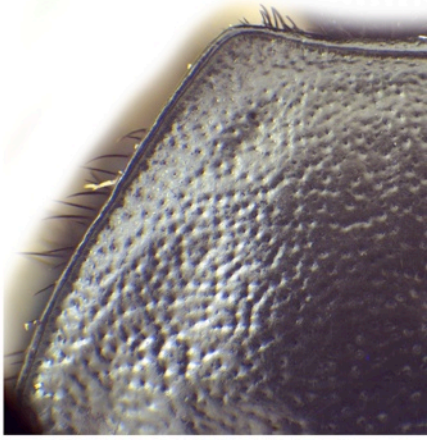


27



28

Fig. **20**-**28**. Three species of *Jekelius*, pronotum.

20-**22**. *J. hernandezi*, ♂ (DKCP). **20**. *D*orsal view. **21**. Lateral view. **22**. Detail in dorsal view. **23**-**25**. *J. wrzecionkoi* **sp**. **nov**., ♂, holotype. **23**. Dorsal view. **24**. Lateral view. **25**. Detail of dorsal view. **26**-**28**. *J. klichai*, ♂, paratype (LMCT). **26**. Dorsal view. **27**. Lateral view. **28**. Detail in dorsal view

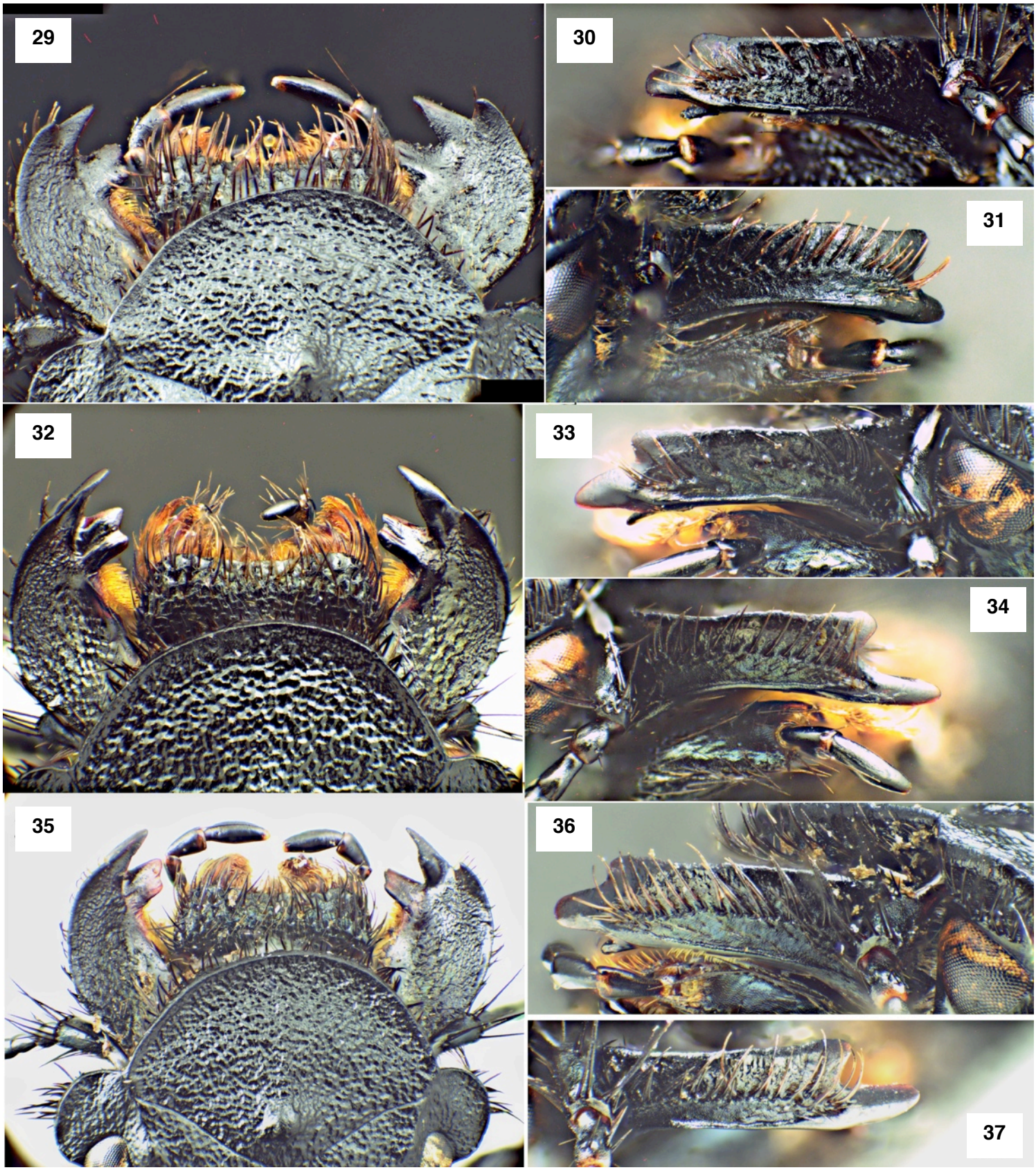


Fig. **29**-**37**. Three species of *Jekelius* mandibles.
29-**31**. *J. hernandezi*, ♂ (DKCP). **29**. Dorsal view. **30**. Left, lateral view. **31**. Right, lateral view. **32**-**34**. *J. wrzecionkoi* **sp**. **nov**., ♂, holotype. **32**. Dorsal view. **33**. Left, lateral view. **34**. Right, lateral view. **35**-**37**. *J. klichai*, ♂, paratype (LMCT). **35**. Dorsal view. **36**. Left, lateral view. **37**. Right, lateral view.

Specimens of *Jekelius* (*Jekelius*) *klichai* examined for comparison

Male paratypes from the type locality Santiago de la Espada, Spain, deposited in LMCT, were examined and used for comparison thanks to the kindness of Ladislav Mencl, who also sent the photographs published here (see "Acknowledgements" below).

List of species of the genus *Jekelius* López-Colón, 1989 with distribution (adopted from Kylies et al. 2025)

***Jekelius* (*Jekelius*)** López-Colón, 1989
- *Jekelius* (*Jekelius*) *albarracinus* (Wagner, 1928) (Spain).
- *Jekelius* (*Jekelius*) *ameliae* López-Colón & Bahillo de la Puebla, 2023 (Spain).
- *Jekelius* (*Jekelius*) *bahilloi* López-Colón, 2018 (Spain).
- *Jekelius* (*Jekelius*) *balearicus* (López-Colón, 1984) (Spain: Mallorca).
- *Jekelius* (*Jekelius*) *bargylus* Sommer, Hillert & Král, 2025 (Syria).
- *Jekelius* (*Jekelius*) *brullei africanus* (Baraud, 1965) (Algeria; Libya; Tunisia).
- *Jekelius* (*Jekelius*) *brullei anatolicus* (Jekel, 1866) (Greece; Turkey).
- *Jekelius* (*Jekelius*) *brullei brullei* (Jekel, 1866) (Albania; Bosnia-Herzegovina; Croatia; Greece; Italy; Montenegro; Slovenia).
- *Jekelius* (*Jekelius*) *brullei creticus* (Fairmaire, 1876) (Greece: Crete).
- *Jekelius* (*Jekelius*) *castillanus* (López-Colón, 1985) (Spain).
- *Jekelius* (*Jekelius*) *catalonicus* (López-Colón, 1991) (Spain).
- *Jekelius* (*Jekelius*) *chalconotus* (Chevrolat, 1840) (Portugal).
- *Jekelius (Jekelius) chersinus* (J.-J. Delabie, 1954) (France; Spain).
- Jekelius (*Jekelius*) *hernandezi* (López-Colón, 1988) (Spain).
- *Jekelius* (*Jekelius*) *hispanus* (Reitter, 1982) (Portugal; Spain).
- *Jekelius* (*Jekelius*) *impavidus* Sommer, Hillert & Král, 2025 (Israel).
- *Jekelius* (*Jekelius*) *intermedius* (O.G. Costa, 1827) (France; Italy; Spain: Menorca; Algeria; Tunisia)
- *Jekelius* (*Jekelius*) *jeannei* Huchet, Sommer, Hillert & Král, 2020 (Turkey).
- *Jekelius* (*Jekelius*) *juengueri* (Romero-Samper, 1996) (Spain).
- *Jekelius* (*Jekelius*) *klichai* Kylies, Pucholt, López-Colón & Bahillo de la Puebla (Spain).
- *Jekelius* (*Jekelius*) *lemairei* López-Colón & Bahillo de la Puebla, 2024 (Spain).
- *Jekelius* (*Jekelius*) *luciae* Sommer, Hillert & Král, 2025 (Jordan).
- *Jekelius* (*Jekelius*) *nitidus* (Jekel, 1866) (Portugal; Spain).
- *Jekelius* (*Jekelius*) *paulae* López-Colón & Bahillo de la Puebla, 2024 (Spain).
- *Jekelius* (*Jekelius*) *pertinax* Sommer, Hillert & Král, 2025 (Lebanon; Syria).
- *Jekelius* (*Jekelius*) *punctatolineatus* (François, 1904) (Spain).
- *Jekelius* (*Jekelius*) *sardous* (Erichson, 1847) (France: Corsica; Italy: Sardinia).
- *Jekelius* (*Jekelius*) *sericeus* (Jekel, 1866) (France).
- *Jekelius* (*Jekelius*) *syriacus* (Jekel, 1866) (Israel; Jordan; Syria).
- *Jekelius* (*Jekelius*) *wrzecionkoi* **sp**. **nov**. (Spain).

***Jekelius* (*Reitterius*)** López-Colón, 1996
- *Jekelius* (*Reitterius*) *punctulatus* (Jekel, 1866) (Albania; Bosnia-Herzegovina; Bulgaria; Greece; Kosovo; Macedonia; Serbia).

***Jekelius* (*Rudolfpetrovitzia*)** A. Rey & López-Colón, 2003
- *Jekelius* (*Rudolfpetrovitzia*) *marginatus* (Poiret, 1787) (Italy: Sicily; Algeria; Morocco; Tunisia).

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Vladimír Štrunc (Rožnov pod Radhoštěm, Czech Republic) for the high-quality photographs and David Kaspřák (Havířov, Silesia, Czech Republic) for the genetic analysis. Ladislav Mencl (Týnec nad Labem, Czech Republic) kindly sent other photographs of *Jekelius wrzecionkoi* **sp**. **nov**. (Fig. 9, 24, 25, 32-34, 39, 42, 45, 48, 51, 54, 57), *J.* (*J.*) *hernandezi* (Fig. 14, 15, 21, 22, 29-31, 38, 41, 44, 47, 50, 53, 56) and *J.* (*J.*) *klichai* (Fig. 18, 19, 26-28, 35-37, 40, 43, 46, 49, 52, 55, 58-60, 67-69). We also are thankful to Jiří Moravec (Adamov, Czech Republic) for his help with the manuscript and literature.

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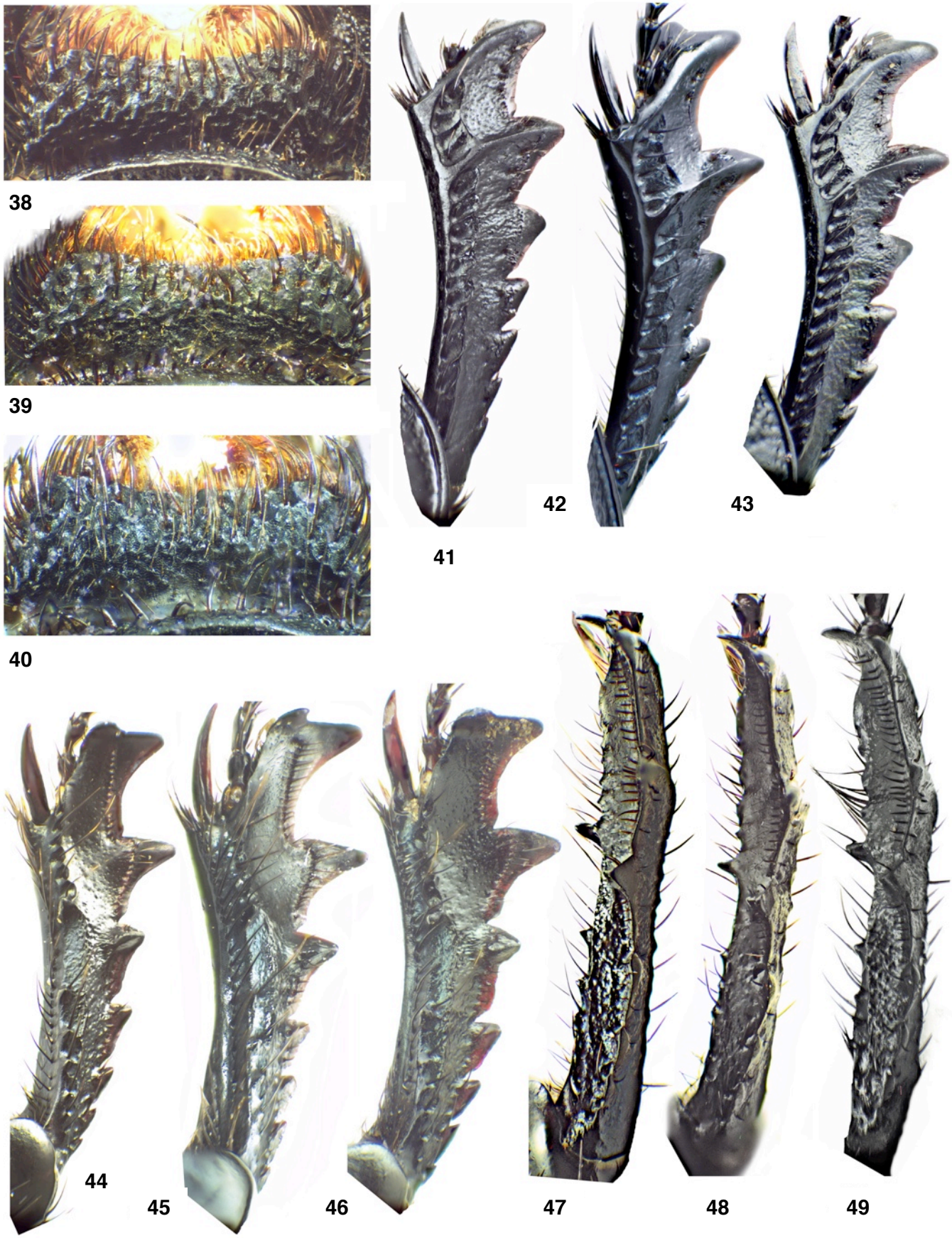

Fig. **38**-**49**. Three species of *Jekelius*.

38-**40**. Labrum. **38**. *J. hernandezi*, ♂ (DKCP). **39**. *J. wrzecionkoi* **sp**. **nov**., ♂, holotype. **40**. *J. klichai*, ♂, paratype (LMCT). **41**-**49**. Protibia. **41**-**43**. Right, dorsally. **41**. *J. hernandezi*, ♂ (DKCP). **42**. *J. wrzecionkoi* **sp**. **nov**., ♂, holotype. **43**. *J. klichai*, ♂, paratype (LMCT). **44**-**46**. Left, ventrally. **44**. *J. hernandezi*, ♂ (DKCP). **45**. *J. wrzecionkoi* **sp**. **nov**., ♂, holotype. **46**. *J. klichai*, ♂, paratype (LMCT). **47**-**49**. Lateral view. **47**. *J. hernandezi*, ♂ (DKCP). **48**. *J. wrzecionkoi* **sp**. **nov**., ♂, holotype. **49**. *J. klichai*, ♂, paratype, (LMCT).

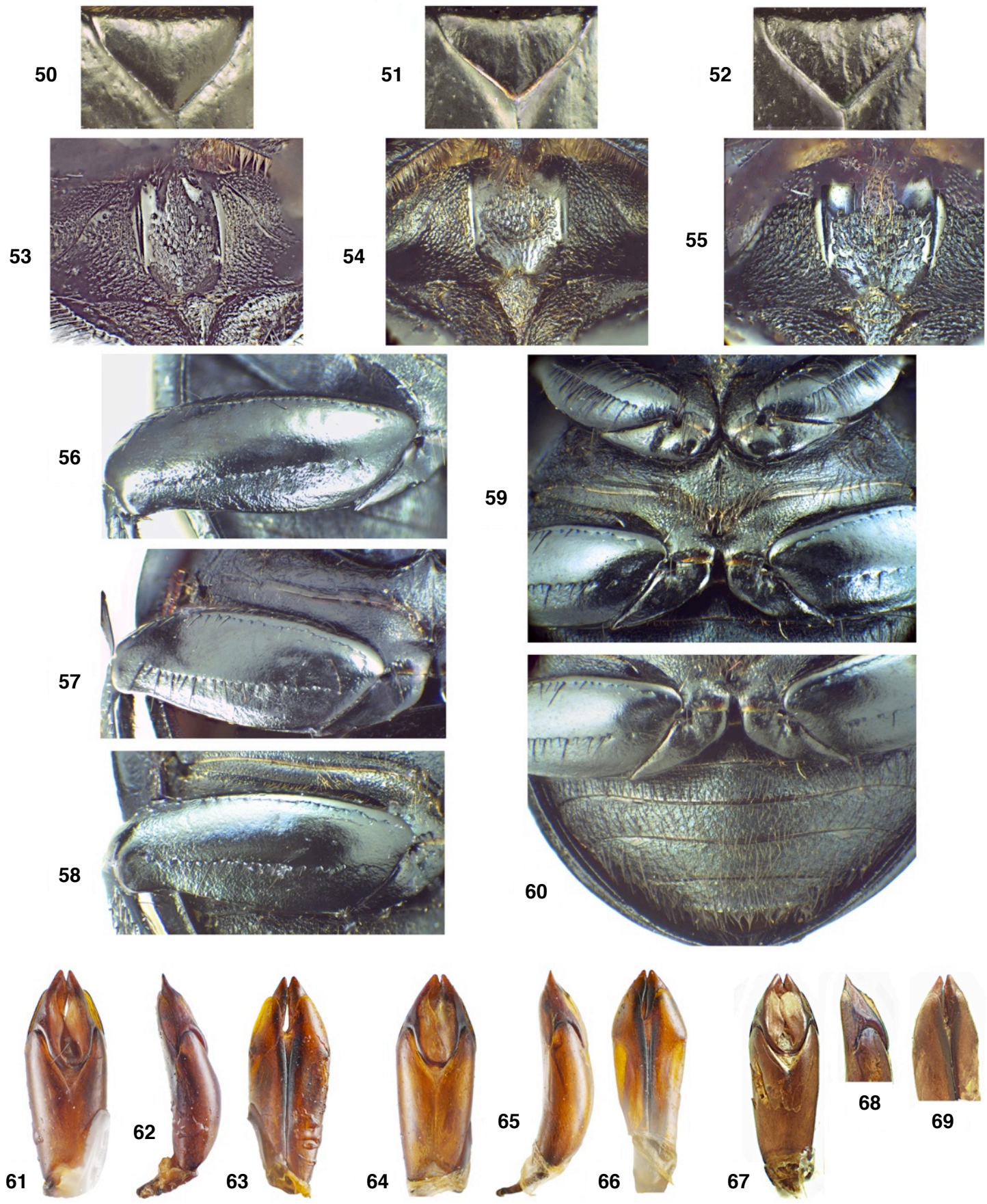

Fig. **50**-**69**. Three species of *Jekelius*.

50-**52**. Scutellum. **50**. *J. hernandezi*, ♂ (DKCP). **51**. *J. wrzecionkoi* **sp**. **nov**., ♂, holotype. **52**. *J. klichai*, ♂, paratype (LMCT). **53**-**55**. Mesosternum. **53**. *J. hernandezi*, ♂ (DKCP). **54**. *J. wrzecionkoi* **sp**. **nov**., ♂, holotype. **55**. *J. klichai*, ♂, paratype (LMCT). **56**-**58**. Femora. **56**. *J. hernandezi*, ♂ (DKCP). **57**. *J. wrzecionkoi* **sp**. **nov**., ♂, holotype. **58**. *J. klichai*, ♂, paratype (LMCT). **59**-**60**. *J. klichai*, ♂, paratype (LMCT). **59**. Coxae and trochanters. **60**. Abdomen. **61**-**69**. Male aedeagi in dorsal, lateral and ventral view. **61**-**63**. *J. hernandezi* (DKCP). **64**-**66**. *J. wrzecionkoi* **sp**. **nov**., holotype. **67**-**69**. *J. klichai*, paratype (LMCT).

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Genetic analysis

RESULTS REPORT
on molecular genetic examination

Dekódovna lab

DNA BARCODING RESULT

Sample (customer)	Designation (laboratory)	Species identification	Conformity (BOLD[1])
-	IN9	Insecta > Coleoptera > Geotrupidae > **Jekelius wrzecionkoi sp. nov.**	92,35 %

Methods used: DNA isolation, PCR, gel electrophoresis, Sanger sequencing

Comment on the result:

Based on DNA barcoding analysis, the sequence of the target region of the COI gene (cytochrome c oxidase subunit I) of the tested sample was compared with the BOLD (Barcode of Life Data System) reference database1. No species identity was determined, probably due to the new species. The target sequence was assigned to the closest possible species with a given percentage of similarity.
Sequence check in the NCBI (GenBank) database2 using the BLAST3 algorithm revealed the closest sequence to the species Jekelius hernandezi (KP657669.1) with a 97.42% similarity across the entire sequence length.

Analyzed COI sequence (658 bp):

>INS9_COI_barcode
AACCTTATATTTTTTATTCGGATCCTGAGCAGGAATAGTAGGAACATCCCTAAGAATTTTAATCCGAGCCGAATTAGG
AAACCCGGGATCTTTAATTGGAGATGATCAAATTTTTAATGTAATTGTAACAGCACATGCTTTTGTAATAATTTTTTTT
ATAGTTATACCAATTTTAATTGGAGGATTTGGTAATTGATTAGTTCCTTTAATATTAGGGGCACCTGATATAGCTTTTC
CCCGAATAAATAATATAAGATTTTGATTATTACCCCCTTCTTTAACTCTCTTATTAATAAGAAGGCTAGTAGAAAGAGG
AGCTGGTACCGGCTGAACTGTTTATCCACCGTTATCGGCAAATATCACCCATAGAGGAGCTTCTGTAGATTTAGCTATT
TTTAGACTCCATTTAGCTGGAATTTCATCTATTCTTGGTGCAGTAAATTTTATTGCTACAGTAATTAATATACGATCAAC
AGGAATAACTTTTGACCGACTACCATTATTTGTATGATCAGTAGTATTAACTGCTTTATTATTACTTTTATCATTACCAG
TATTAGCTGGGGCTATCACTATATTATTAACAGATCGAAATCTAAATACTTCATTTTTTGACCCTGCCGGAGGAGGGGA
CCCAATTTTATACCAACACTTATTT

Fig. **70**. Genetic analysis.

71 **Genetic sequence comparison**
sequence diference 2.58%

```
CLUSTAL format alignment by MAFFT (v7.511)


Jhernandez aaccttatatttttttattcggatcctgagcaggaatagtgggaacatccctaagaatttt
Jwrze      aaccttatatttttttattcggatcctgagcaggaatagtaggaacatccctaagaatttt
           ****************************************.**********************

Jhernandez aatccgagccgaattaggaaacccaggatctttaatcggagatgatcaaatttttaatgt
Jwrze      aatccgagccgaattaggaaacccgggatctttaattggagatgatcaaatttttaatgt
           ************************.***********.************************

Jhernandez aattgtaacagcacatgcttttgtaataatttttttttatagttataccaattttaattgg
Jwrze      aattgtaacagcacatgcttttgtaataatttttttttatagttataccaattttaattgg
           ************************************************************

Jhernandez aggatttggtaattgattagttcctttaatattaggagcacctgatatagctttcccccg
Jwrze      aggatttggtaattgattagttcctttaatattaggggcacctgatatagcttttccccg
           ************************************.****************.*****

Jhernandez aataaataatataagattttgattattacccccttctttaactcttttattaataagaag
Jwrze      aataaataatataagattttgattattacccccttctttaactctcttattaataagaag
           ********************************************.*************

Jhernandez actagtagaaagaggagctggtactggctgaactgtttatccaccgttatcggcaaatat
Jwrze      gctagtagaaagaggagctggtaccggctgaactgtttatccaccgttatcggcaaatat
           .************************.***********************************

Jhernandez cacccatagaggggcttctgtagatttagctatttttagactccatttagctggaatttc
Jwrze      cacccatagaggagcttctgtagatttagctatttttagactccatttagctggaatttc
           ************.************************************************

Jhernandez atctattcttggtgcagtaaattttattgctacagtaattaatatacgatcaacaggaat
Jwrze      atctattcttggtgcagtaaattttattgctacagtaattaatatacgatcaacaggaat
           ************************************************************

Jhernandez aacttttgaccgaatgccgctatttgtatgatcagtagtattaactgctttattattact
Jwrze      aacttttgaccgactaccattatttgtatgatcagtagtattaactgctttattattact
           ************* *.**..**************************************

Jhernandez tttatcattaccggtattagctggagctatcactatattattaacagatcgaaatctaaa
Jwrze      tttatcattaccagtattagctggggctatcactatattattaacagatcgaaatctaaa
           ************.***********.************************************

Jhernandez tacttcatttttgaccctgccggaggggggagacccaattttataccaacacttattt
Jwrze      tacttcatttttgaccctgccggaggaggggacccaattttataccaacacttattt
           ****************************.**.****************************
```

Fig. **71**. Genetic sequence comparison, showing the detected difference between *Jekelius hernandezi* and *Jekelius wrzecionkoi* **sp**. **nov**. as 2.58 % in the COI barcoding area: "Jhernandez" = *Jekelius hernandezi*, Albacete: Bonete, Spain (GenBank KP657669). "Jwrze" = Jekelius wrzecionkoi **sp**. **nov**., ♂, holotype–Murcia, Cañada de la Cruz, Spain (BBFM).

Fig. **72**. *Jekelius wrzecionkoi* **sp**. **nov**., type locality overall view.

Fig. **73**. *Jekelius wrzecionkoi* **sp**. **nov**., habitat, type locality.

Résumé

Bubeník B., 2026. – *Jekelius* (*Jekelius*) *wrzecionkoi* **sp**. **nov**., une nouvelle espèce de Murcie (Espagne), comparée à deux espèces similaires (Coleoptera: Geotrupidae). *Faunitaxys*, 14(24) : 1 – 16.

Une nouvelle espèce du genre *Jekelius* López-Colón, 1989, *Jekelius* (*Jekelius*) *wrzecionkoi* **sp**. **nov**., provenant de la province de Murcie, près de Cañada de la Cruz, en Espagne, est décrite et illustrée. Cette nouvelle espèce est comparée à deux espèces similaires et manifestement proches : *Jekelius* (*Jekelius*) *hernandezi* (López-Colón, 1988) et *Jekelius* (*Jekelius*) *klichai* Kylies, Pucholt, López-Colón & Bahillo de la Puebla, 2025. Les diagnoses différentielles de *J.* (*J.*) *hernandezi* et *J.* (*J.*) *klichai*, ainsi que leurs différences avec la nouvelle espèce, sont présentées. La morphologie des mandibules des mâles est utilisée pour la première fois comme un caractère diagnostique important chez les *Jekelius*. Des illustrations en couleurs de l'habitus et des caractères des trois espèces sont fournies. Les résultats des analyses d'ADN de la nouvelle espèce et de *J.* (*J.*) hernandezi sont également présentés.

Mots-clés. – Coleoptera, Geotrupidae, *Jekelius*, taxonomie, description, nouvelle espèce, Murcia, Espagne.

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Illustration de la couverture :

Jekelius (*Jekelius*) *wrzecionkoi* **sp**. **nov**., ♂, holotype.

Crédits:

Vladimír Štrunc (Rožnov pod Radhoštěm, Czech Republic): Fig. 1-8, 10-13, 16-17, 20- 23, 61-66 (incl. couvertuture).
Ladislav Mencl, **Týnec nad Labem** (Czech Republic): Fig. 9, 14-15, 18-19, 21-22, 24-60, 67-69.

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